

UCA Record~~SECRET~~

001 CUF *Sen Bumpers / Sen Harkin*
Sen Simon / Sen Johnston
Sen Heinz / Sen Proxmire
Sen Gramm / Sen Kerry
Sen Pryor
Salt

25 January 1988
 OCA 88-0246

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Staff Briefing on Soviet SDI

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1.

OSWR

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briefed the following nine personal staff members of Soviet SDI in the Senate Intelligence Committee hearing room on 22 January 1988:

Bruce MacDonald, Sen. Bumpers
 Carlton Thomas, Sen. Harkin
 Jonathan Stein, Sen. Simon
 James Bruce, Sen. Johnston
 Dennis Culkin, Sen. Heinz
 Ron Tammen, Sen. Proxmire,
 Alfred Cumming, Sen. Gramm
 Jonathan Winer, Sen. Kerry
 Kirk Robertson, Sen. Pryor.

No transcript was taken.

2. BACKGROUND. In 1986 and 1987, several of the Senate staff present drafted a report entitled, "SDI: Progress and Challenges." The OSWR officers who read this report said that, although it was critical of US SDI, it was generally well researched and drafted. This briefing was requested, in part, to provide information for the drafters of the forthcoming edition of this report. Other staff was invited because they have expressed interest in the issue and have received other briefings on it. Bruce MacDonald organized the meeting and said that they hoped to invite Gen. Abrahamson to brief this group later in the year.

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2. The OSWR briefers made the following key points in their hour plus briefing:



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- o They do not believe the Soviets have the current capabilities--financial or technical--to develop a strategic defense system similar to the proposed US effort.



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- o The Soviets have done a substantial amount of work on ABM applications, but they are working on an evolutionary path from their current capabilities rather than some exotic breakthroughs.

- o [] briefed on Soviet SDI. The Soviets have a terminal defense system now, a leadership defense system. They have a pre launch strategy, ie. first strike.

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- o [] described the basic composition of the US SDI and compared the Soviet efforts to it, category by category.

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3. The questions directed at the briefers were generally focused directly on the briefing points. Key examples:

[Redacted]

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3. Follow-up. Sen. Kerry's staff indicated that they would recommend that Sen. Kerry receive this briefing. Sen. Bumbers staff person indicated he wanted another briefing [Redacted] Ron Tammens of Proxmire's staff said he wanted to review the vu-graphs used in the briefings. This request was obviously in the context of drafting the SDI report described above. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Senate Division
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